The invention relates to antimicrobial copolymers obtained by copolymerizing (component I) aliphatically unsaturated monomers which have been functionalized by means of an ester group and at least singly functionalized by means of a tertiary amino group with (component II) another aliphatically unsaturated monomer which has been at least singly functionalized by means of an amino group, where components I and II are different from one another.

The copolymers of the invention are prepared by copolymerizing exclusively components 10 I and II.

The antimicrobial polymers may be used as a microbicidal coating, inter alia on hygiene items or in the medical sector, or also in surface coatings or protective paints.